## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LEE LAUNCHES HIV INITIATIVE SISTAS ORGANIZING TO SURVIVE (SOS)

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Contact:

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**Fort Myers, Fla.** - On April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Florida Department of Health in Lee County will be hosting, "Women in Action Conference", a free community event promoting health and wellness among women of color. The event includes several motivational speakers, HIV awareness and prevention, and health and social information booths. In addition to yoga and breath mediation sessions, lunch and door prizes will be provided.

WHEN: Saturday, April 27, 2019

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

WHERE: McGregor Community Services

2070 Carrell Road Suite B Fort Myers, FL 33901

The Florida Department of Health offers numerous specialized initiatives to benefit the health of Florida's communities. We invite you to learn more about our comprehensive HIV prevention strategies. Sistas Organizing to Survive (SOS) is the grassroots mobilization of women of color in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Launched in 2008, SOS encourages black women to get tested where they live, work, play, and worship. The original goal of SOS was to test 100,000 black women each year by 2010. Since its launch, eight local SOS conferences have been conducted, 4,100 people have taken the online pledge, and over 88,000 black women were tested in 2008.

## Objectives of SOS include:

- To educate black women about HIV/AIDS and how other STDs, hepatitis and substance abuse increase their risk.
- To empower black women to take charge of and control their sexual health.
- To connect black women to HIV/AIDS resources.
- To offer tools that enable black women to educate others where they live, work, play, and worship.

## **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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